

Youth Resource Connections

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Headlines

U.S. Department of Education announces grants to improve school counseling programs. The Department of Education has awarded \$20 million to 60 school districts in 26 states to improve school counseling programs. Schools are expected to use the funds to establish or expand elementary and secondary schools counseling, hire and train qualified school counselors, school psychologists and adolescent psychiatrist. For additional information visit: <http://www.ed.gov>.

U.S. Department of Labor awards funds for national IT Apprenticeship Program. The Employment Training Administration has awarded a \$2.8 million grant to the Computing Technology Industry Association. These funds will be used to continue building a National Information Technology Apprenticeship system to provide consistent credentialing for IT career development. For additional information visit: <http://www.dol.gov>.

Secretary Chao participates in White House sponsored Roundtable Discussion on Job Training Programs for Ex-Offenders. The Secretary announced plans for the Ready4 Work Initiative, a \$22.5 million re-entry workforce development project. Public/Private Ventures and national non-profit partners will mobilize local coalitions to work together to develop sustainable ex-offender re-entry programs and to improve outcomes for ex-offenders in the communities in which they live. Ready4Work will operate in 15 to 18 cities across the nation. For more information contact Donna Kelly at 202-693-3934.

Office of Youth Services (OYS) at the Department of Labor plans to disseminate resources to the Youth Offender Community. OYS will develop and disseminate TIP sheets and other resource documents targeted for the Youth Offender Grantees and other organizations working with the youth offender population. The availability and location of these documents will be referenced in future YRC publications. For more information contact Richard Morris at 202-693-33603.

Youth Rules! Marks One-Year Anniversary. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division announced the expansion of the YouthRules! YouthRules! is a public awareness campaign to bring teens, parents, educators, and employers together to promote safe and rewarding work experiences for young workers. Information about YouthRules! and the new agriculture material can be found at: <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov>.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) develops Spanish In-Home Learning System. TWC is working with a number of local workforce development boards to develop a Spanish In-Home Learning System that uses technology to help Spanish-speaking individuals increase their quality of life and improve their workforce skills. The program will bring computers, internet access and customized educational content to people with low literacy and little or no computer skills. For more information interested persons should contact the nearest local workforce investment area office.

Departments of Labor and Defense Partners to Support Military Families. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Secretary Chao signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) July 11 to promote cooperative efforts between the departments. The MOU is designed to improve the quality of life of service members and their families. For additional information visit: <http://www.dol.gov>.

Department of Education Awards \$1.8 Million in Grants to Milken Family Foundation's Teacher Advancement Program (TAP). The TAP, a research-based strategy is designed to enhance student performance by providing advanced training for teachers. The following States have been awarded grants, Arkansas, Arizona, and South Carolina. Funds will be used to increase teacher quality and effectiveness. For more information contact Stephanie Germand at the Milken Family Foundation at 310-570-4774.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to Host Teleconference on Youth and Law Enforcement Partnerships. The purpose of this teleconference is to address youth relations with law enforcement professionals. The conveners will explore some specific ways these partnerships have taken shape nationwide. For registration information, please visit: <http://www.udetc.org/Events-AudioConferences.htm>.

National Association of State Workforce Agencies offers LMI@Work WebTraining. The LMI@Work is a web-based training course designed for workforce professionals who want to utilize the system's vast array of data, labor market, and workforce information to enhance customer service. To access the course visit: <http://www.naswa.org> and select the menu offering under national headlines.

Program Spotlight

WorkReady Pennsylvania. WorkReady Philadelphia, a program under the auspices of the Workforce Investment Board's Philadelphia Youth Council placed 8,500 students, ages 14-21 in summer jobs this year. Executives in corporations help to connect youth to the world of work and life beyond their neighborhood. WorkReady offers customer service credentials to students who work in hospitality and financial service jobs. For more information visit: <http://www.workreadyphila.com>.

Connecticut Youth Leadership Forum. The State of Connecticut provides a leadership forum for youth with disabilities. For one week more than 30 youth with various disabilities participate in an intensive leadership training project at the University of Connecticut. For more information about the forum visit: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/y1f/about.htm>

Achieving Independence Center. The Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation and City's Department of Human Services assists youth transitioning from the foster care system. The Achieving Independence Center provides life skills training, education assistance, technology training, housing information, and employment assistance. Youth also receive hands on job training through the center's Independence Cafe. For more information call 215-574-3194.

Horizons train's youth for transition to college. Horizons, a program in Luzerne County, PA combines academic coursework and support services to facilitate youth transition from high school/GED to college. It is designed for out-of-school youth ages 18-21. The 30 day program offers students developmental college courses in writing and math, lab fees, tutoring, and books. Participants also receive assistance applying for financial aid, career planning and other information that increases their chances for success in a college setting. Additional information maybe obtained by contacting Paul O'Malia at the LCWIDA in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Baltimore YO! Celebrates GEDs. On June 25, the Baltimore YO! hosted a graduation ceremony for thirty-five YO! participants. Several local and state officials participated in the ceremony. State Senator Lisa Gladden served as the keynote speaker, other presenters were Karen Sitnick, director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and Ernest Dorsey, director of the Baltimore YO! One of the highlights announced included the achievement of a first GED class graduate, who has received an associate arts degree. For more information contact Ernest Dorsey, YO! Program Director at 410-390-6722.

YMCA, RadioShack, and Alexandria, Va based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children initiates "Street Sentz". The YMCA will host forums to bring parents together with experts to discuss child safety. Radio Shack distributes child ID kits that include a CD photo and personal information sheets. The first of two forums were hosted in Texas. It is expected that Street Sentz will go national in the fall. For more information contact the YMCA at (312) 977-0031. Radio Shack brochures are available online at: <http://radioshackcorporation.com>.

Funding Opportunities

The American Library Association announces a partnership project. The Library Association Program in conjunction with WNET television in New York announced a partnership to support 15 libraries to teach youth math using an animated TV web series. Outreach sites will receive a \$42,000 grant to use toward program cost and support materials and services. For more information visit: <http://www.ala.org/content/navigation/menu>.

Verizon Foundation Offers Grants to Texas Nonprofit Group for Literacy Projects. Nonprofit organizations and education institutions in Texas are invited to compete for \$500,000 in grants to support literacy projects for adults and youth. Verizon seeks proposals that support reading, reading recovery, English as a Second Language, childhood literacy, and other efforts to improve reading skills. To qualify for funding, applicants must have 501(c)(3) status with a valid Internal Revenue Service tax ID. Schools must have a current National Center for Education Statistics school and district registration to qualify. Additional information may be obtained at: <http://foundation.verizon.com>. **Deadline: September 5.**

Toy Industry Foundation (TIF) Announces RFP for U.S. and Canadian Organizations Serving Children in Need. TIF will award up to seven grants in the amount of \$25,000 to improve the lives of youth. Organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply. Proposals should be consistent with current TIF policies and guidelines. For complete funding guidelines, visit: <http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/ATI/index.html>. **Deadline: August 31.**

VSA Arts and Volkswagen of America Offers Opportunity for Young Artists with Disabilities. VSA seeks applications from artists with physical, cognitive, or mental disabilities, ages 16 to 25, living within the U.S. to participate in a juried exhibit entitled "Road Trip A Journey of Discovery." Fifteen finalists will receive \$30,000 with recognition at a public exhibition in Washington, DC. Complete program guidelines and entry forms are available at the VSA arts website, visit: <http://www.vsarts.org/gallery/callsforart/vw/index.html>. **Deadline: August 15.**

Bush Foundation Invites Applications for 2004 National Grant Competition. The Barbara Bush Foundation is accepting applications for its 2004 national grant. The goal of the grant is to develop and expand family literacy programs. Approximately \$650,000 is awarded each year to organizations in the U.S. For consideration for a grant, an organization must meet the following criteria: have been in existence for two or more years; have maintained fiscal accountability; currently have an instructional literacy program that has operated for at least two years. To learn more about the criteria and application process, visit: <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html>. **Deadline: September 5.**

Light Foundation Invites Awards for Excellence in Workplace Volunteer Programs. The Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network established the Excellence in Workplace Award to recognize businesses of all sizes and industries that demonstrate an exemplary record in the Principles of Excellence for Workplace Volunteering. The awards are designed to honor businesses' projects and the program policies and corporate vision that support those volunteer activities. Companies with a recently established employee volunteer program are encouraged to apply. Any small, medium large of international business that has an established and company supported employee/retiree volunteer program directed towards addressing the community's serious social problems is eligible to apply. For complete program guidelines visit: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/nominate.cfm>. **Deadline: October 17.**

The American Honda Foundation to Award Grants for Educational Programs. The American Honda Foundation will award grants to organizations that offer youth scientific education programs. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. For more information contact the American Honda Foundation at 310-781-4090. **Deadline: August 1.**

Radio Shack offer Small Grants. The Radio Shack Corporation will award grants to organizations that help reduce and prevent family violence and abuse, and child abduction. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Contact the Radio Shack Neighborhood Answers Grant Program at 817-415-3700. **Deadline: Grants are considered in August and November.**

Publications/Reports/Resources

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Technical Assistance Update for July 25, 2003

Shaping the Future of American Youth: Youth Policy in the 21st Century. Edited by Anne Lewis provides a forum for 14 top leaders in youth work and policy to address youth development issues. Youth leaders represented at the forum included Dorothy Stoneman of YouthBuild and Hilary Pennington of Jobs for the Future. The publication contains essays on issues such as education, service learning and workforce development. To obtain a copy contact the American Policy Forum, Publication Department at 202-775-9731.

The Hidden Crisis in the High School Drop Out Problems of Young Adults in the U.S.

This report addresses issues about how many youth drop out of school in the U.S. Statistics used by the Department of Education discounts those who attain a GED, exclude youth in prisons and jails, and do not count those who drop out of school before ninth grade. This report may be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.brtable.org>.

Public Opinion about Youth Transitioning from Foster Care to Adulthood. A study produced by Jim Casey of Youth Opportunities Initiative was designed to explore public knowledge of and perceptions about young people leaving foster care. The author of the report found that most Americans know little about foster care. While foster youth generally age out at age 18, most of these respondents said it is not until age 21 that young people become self-sufficient. To obtain a copy of the publication call 314-463-7000.

New Study Uncovers Hidden Dropout Crisis. The Center for Labor Market Studies (CLMS) at Northeastern University published a study on the nation's high school dropout rate. The study shows that 25 to 30 percent of students in America do not graduate with a high school diploma. It also reveals that males 20 to 30 percent are more likely to drop out of school than females, contributing to the increasing gender gap at colleges and universities. For more information contact Christine Phelan at 617-373-5455.

Leave No Youth Behind: New Report Urges Congress to focus on Disconnected Youth.

The Center for Law and Social Policy released a report which indicates that the US has no coherent policy to help disconnected youth become productive members of society. "Disconnected Youth" are those young people aged 16-24 who are out of school and out of work for a sustained period and are without ready access to social and family support. The report is available at: <http://www.clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1057083505.88/DisconnectedYouth.pdf>.

Using Title I to Support Out-of-School Time and Community School Initiatives.

The Finance Project produced a strategy brief highlighting the use of Title I funds to improve educational outcomes for students at risk of educational failure. The brief also provides other uses of Title I funds, which may include out-of-school time programs, parents literacy training, parenting classes, and coordinated community school strategies. To obtain a copy of the brief visit: <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/Brief10.pdf>

Websites

Struggling Teens. A resource for troubled adolescents and their parents is designed to help them find programs, schools and support for handling behaviorable problems. The site includes a listing of specialized education options. The website can be accessed at: <http://www.strugglingteens.com>.

Promising Practices in Afterschool. Provides youth workers with a valuable resource that covers all aspects of creating or improving after-school programs. The site is managed by the Center for Youth Development at the Academy for Educational Development. The website can be accessed at: <http://www.afterschool.org>.

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Calendar of Events

July 28-30 Washington, DC. National Institute of Justice. Annual Conference on Criminal Research and Evaluation. . Contact: (202) 393-2000, or visit: <http://www.nijpcs.org/RE/RE2003/index.htm>.

July 30-August 1 Philadelphia, PA. Child Welfare League of America. Fourth National Kinship Care Conference. Contact: (202) 662-4286 and <http://www.cwla.org/conferences>.

August 4-7 Minneapolis, MN. University of Minnesota Center for Adolescent Nursing. Linking Youth Development and Sexuality Education. Contact: (612) 626-4772, or visit: <http://www.nursing.umn.edu/>.

August 6-8 Jacksonville, FL. Gesell Institute. Older Child Workshops. Contact: (203) 777-3481 or visit: <http://www.gesellinstitute.org/>.

August 13-15. San Antonio, TX. Texas Network of Youth Services. Contact: 512-328-6860 or visit: <http://www.tnoys.org>.

August 16-19. New Orleans, LA. National Association of Counsel for Children. Contact: 888-828-6222.

September 17-19. Washington, DC. PePNet 03 Institute and Awards Ceremony. Contact: 202-659-1064.

September 18-19. Denver, CO. The Spot: Creating Adolescent-Focused Youth Centers. Contact: 303-507-3230.

September 22-24. Nashville, TN. National Youth Court Center. Contact: 859-244-8193 or visit: <http://www.youthcourt.net>.

September 24-27. San Antonio, TX. Texas State Foster Parents. Visit: <http://www.tsfpi.org>.

YRC ALERT for FEDERAL DOL subscribers

Due to the implementation of the new email system, ALL DOL FEDERAL STAFF must re-subscribe to the LISTSERV. This should assure that you receive the newsletter publication in a timely manner.